



KENT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lisa LaPlante – 616.632.7182

Emergency Management & Preparedness Coordinators Division Reminds Residents to Be Prepared! September is National Preparedness Month

GRAND RAPIDS – As autumn approaches, many people are wondering what this winter will bring. Freezing temperatures and extended, heavy snowfall last winter was dangerous. What if the power goes out? What if your car gets stranded at the side of a road? The Kent County Emergency Management Division and Kent County Health Department Emergency Preparedness team are observing National Preparedness Month this September.

“There are incidents where people literally get a few seconds to make life-or-death decisions,” said Jack Stewart, Emergency Management Coordinator for Kent County. “If you have a plan on how you will respond to the conditions of disasters, whether it’s an act of terror or an act of nature, it can make the difference in the outcomes for you and your family.”

Build a basic emergency kit, which should include three-to- fourteen days of water and non-perishable food, a first aid kit, an all-weather radio, a flashlight, extra batteries, a one week supply of medications and personal hygiene items. A good way to prepare is to consider camping at a rustic campground where there is no electricity. “Perhaps you built an emergency kit complete a few years ago,” said Adam London, Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. “But batteries lose power, food expires, and even personal hygiene items could go bad over time. September is a good time to make sure those items are still usable.” Keep a road emergency kit in your car, including a warm blanket that is within reach of the driver.

Before a disaster, family and friends should arrange a meeting place, in case you're not together during an emergency. Discuss how you'll contact each other as well as what to do in a variety of situations. Also remember to check on our special needs populations (elderly, non-ambulatory) during times of emergencies. The Kent County Emergency Management office offers training free of charge through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). This training prepares individuals to help themselves, their families, and the community in general.

Websites for more information on preparedness:

www.getReadyKent.com

www.AccessKent.com/GETREADY

www.AccessKent.com/emergencymanagement

www.BeMittenReady.com

www.ready.gov

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